

August 21<sup>st</sup> Friday

Indeed Col. (to use your own familiarly)  
I had not a single thought of accusing you  
of neglect or want of attention - that kind  
of jealousy is no innate quality in my com-  
position - I am always happy when my  
friends are so - your haste and business was  
a sufficient excuse for me - I do not doubt  
your friendship, tho I have but little merit  
to deserve it - What you may hear from  
My Lord and Gen<sup>l</sup> W. I cannot tell - the  
former had high expectations of hearing  
from Lady L. the latter from Mr. H. friends.  
I can tell you no more of the matter, than  
that they were much disappointed in not  
seeing you - I could make the excuse your  
apolog, but it would be making myself offic-  
ious, without any service to you - and this  
manner of obliging friends often does more  
hurt than good -



My reason for writing you, is not to engage  
in a regular course of letters, but shall always  
take <sup>the</sup> liberty, when I please - and that is when  
I feel in an humour for it - whether I  
ever receive any is a matter of after  
consideration - to be settled in future, when  
I shall have a long list of matters to adjust  
which I am putting off from day to day

You are a person too well  
acquainted with me, to imagine that  
it proceeds from any design of flattery, when  
I tell you, that General Gale, was par-  
ticularly pleased with you, in <sup>the</sup> visit  
you made at his Quarters - I heard him  
speak of you several times with singular  
pleasure - notwithstanding many reports  
which are spread to the disadvantage of that  
Gentleman, I think him as agreeable,  
sociable, undesigning a character, as any of  
fices in the Army

RW 573(1)



News and Politics make but a small share  
of my daily sustenance— in a general  
way, I think, that a good dinner, with  
a dish of Tea in the afternoon, where a  
gentle, handsome, unaffected Lady  
heads the Table, with two or three pretty  
little, sensible girls at her elbows, or  
next to me if they please, would hit my taste  
much better, than this continued course  
of sameness, which scarcely affords time  
for a moment's reflection, or space to enjoy  
any of the Sweet and Blessings of this Life—  
Guards— Orders— Sails, & Returns are  
the four Great Objects, which make the  
Plenum of any days and weeks—

Saturday 6 o'clock PM—

It was from the mere impulse of friend-  
ship that I began this— and as I have been excee-  
dingly pleased with my company this afternoon,



Waj. Alden Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> 78

I will close the day with the same good feelings, by finishing it. You need must expect any news from me. Tho we have reports that Gen<sup>l</sup> Clinton has filled the found with transports, destined for White Plains and Long Island, I shall not tell it as a new matter, for you always anticipate every thing of that kind, especially as you told so much among your friends, about the multitude of transports, & the seemingly great bustle that General Clinton affected to make upon Long Island. You may guess what is the consequence. I will not relieve your anxiety for it is not in my power. — Believe me your friend without affectation and remember that I shall always, Jan<sup>y</sup> Ceremonie, use you with the freedom becoming that character. My compliments to Major Stagg. — I am dear Sir Yours with sincerity

W. Alden

RV 573(2)

I have not had time to enquire for Menpinner Island.

Recd Dec 21 May 1978